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LOUIS ARONSOHN: Banker and member of the Prussian diet

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[Dr. Louis Aronsohn]

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Louis Aronsohn, Banker and Member of the Prussian Diet. [1850-1928]

Louis Aronsohn, born 1850 at Wissek (Province of Posen) was a self-made man. He became a highly respected banker in the city of Bromberg (now Bydgoszcz). He headed, or was a member of, boards of important banking and industrial firms. Aronsohn was elected vice-president, then president of the Chamber of Commerce of the district of Bromberg and was an honorary member of the administration of the city of Bromberg and of the provincial diet of the province of Posen. He won prominence among those Jews who held important economic or administrative positions in the nationally mixed province in which they were firm defenders of the German cause.

A member of the Progressive Party, Aronsohn was elected to the Prussian Diet on a conservative-liberal against a Polish ticket.

He belonged to the Diet from 1903 to 1918. After the revolution, he was for several months, a member of the Constituent Prussian Assembly.

Aronsohn considered certain methods of the German anti-Polish policy as harmful. He was critical of the application of the law authorizing the purchase of land owned by Poles and the settlement of Germans on formerly Polish soil. He noted with concern that the law resulted in the emergence and increase of a Polish urban middle class. In the struggle against the Poles Aronsohn sided sometimes with the nationalists of the Right. His liberal ~~xxxxx~~ friends did not always look with favor upon his parliamentary initiatives. During the First World War Aronsohn has been working in the civilian administration of occupied Poland.

Aronsohn lived to see the re-establishment of, and the return of his province to, the Polish state. He died in Berlin in 1928.

Bibliography: Stenographische Berichte des Preussischen Abgeordneten-hauses. Handbuch des Preussischen Abgeordneten-hauses. Handbuch der Preussischen Landesversammlung 1919.

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